

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of intercepting a transaction instantiated by a database application to determine if an electronic signature is necessary to commit the transaction to the database, the method comprising:
 - in response to a triggering action generated by the database application, calling an application program interface to raise an event;
 - initiating a workflow process that executes a rule to determine if an electronic signature is required to approve the transaction; and
 - if execution of the rule results in a determination that an electronic signature is required for the transaction, instantiating a signature collection process.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the application program interface comprises an event name and an event id.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the signature collection process can be either a synchronous collection process or an asynchronous collection process.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the application program interface comprises an event name, an event id and an indication of whether the signature collection process is a synchronous process or an asynchronous process.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the workflow process generates an electronic record that captures data associated with the transaction.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the electronic comprises unstructured data.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the unstructured data comprises XML data stored in character large object (CLOB) format.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the XML data comprises a first well-formed XML document that comprises XML fields generated from a mapping to fields in a database and a second well-formed XML document that comprises the electronic record as it is displayed to a user during the signature collection process.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising:
obtaining an electronic signature in response to the signature collection process;
and

thereafter, verifying the electronic signature and, if the electronic signature is verified, updating a field of the electronic record to indicate a valid signature was received.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising committing the transaction to the database if the electronic signature is verified.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer system ~~for searching unstructured data stored in a database, the computer system~~ comprising:

a processor;

a database; and

a computer-readable memory coupled to the processor, the computer-readable memory configured to store a computer program;

wherein the processor is operative with the computer program to:

(i) call an application program interface to raise an event in response to a triggering action generated by the database application;

(ii) initiate a workflow process that executes a rule to determine if an electronic signature is required to approve the transaction; and

(iii) instantiate a signature collection process if execution of the rule results in a determination that an electronic signature is required for the transaction.

[[11]]12. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim [[10]] 11 wherein the application program interface comprises an event name and an event id.

[[12]]13. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim [[10]] 11 wherein the signature collection process can be either a synchronous collection process or an asynchronous collection process.

[[13]]14. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim [[10]] 11 wherein the workflow process generates an electronic record that captures data associated with the transaction.

[[14]]15. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim [[13]] 14 wherein the electronic record comprises unstructured data.

[[15]]16. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim [[14]] 15 wherein the unstructured data comprises XML data stored in character large object (CLOB) format.

[[16]]17. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim [[15]] 16 wherein the XML data comprises a first well-formed XML document that comprises XML fields generated from a mapping to fields in a database and a second well-formed XML document that comprises the electronic record as it is displayed to a user during the signature collection process.

[[17]]18. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim [[10]] 11 further comprising:

obtaining an electronic signature in response to the signature collection process;
and

thereafter, verifying the electronic signature and, if the electronic signature is verified, updating a field of the electronic record to indicate a valid signature was received.

[[18]]19. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim [[10]] 11 wherein the processor is further operative with the computer program to commit the transaction to the database if the electronic signature is verified.

[[19]]20. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer-readable storage medium ~~for searching unstructured data stored in a database~~, the computer program comprising:

code for calling an application program interface to raise an event in response to a triggering action generated by the database application;

code for initiating a workflow process that executes a rule to determine if an electronic signature is required to approve the transaction; and

code for instantiating a signature collection process if execution of the rule results in a determination that an electronic signature is required for the transaction.

[[20]]21. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim [[19]] 20 wherein the workflow process generates an electronic record that captures data associated with the transaction.

[[21]]22. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim [[19]] 20 wherein the electronic record comprises unstructured data.

[[22]]23. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim [[21]] 22 wherein the unstructured data comprises XML data stored in character large object (CLOB) format.

[[23]]24. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim [[22]] 23 wherein the XML data comprises a first well-formed XML document that comprises XML fields generated from a mapping to fields in a database and a second well-formed XML document that comprises the electronic record as it is displayed to a user during the signature collection process.